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J. RICHARD SPORTSMAN and LAWRENCE M. KAUVAR

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Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98

Applicants are submitting this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98 to disclose to the Patent Office the patents and/or other publications listed on the enclosed, completed PTO-1449 form(s). The filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or as an admission that the listed references are prior art for this application. Applicants respectfully request that the listed references be expressly considered during prosecution of the application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patents issuing therefrom.

CONTENT OF DISCLOSURE

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement includes a legible copy of each reference listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 form(s).

TIMING OF DISCLOSURE / CERTIFICATION

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits. Moreover, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) and/or (c), no fee is required.

Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions or comments regarding this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 30, 2002.

Renee Knight

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Respectfully submitted,

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